

# Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the District of Hampton Wick for the year 1895.

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## THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAMPTON WICK.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report of the Mortality, Health, and Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1895.

The total number of deaths which occurred and were registered was 28, and included—

1 from influenza,
1 from diphtheria,
6 from phthisis,
7 from bronchitis and pneumonia,
2 from diseases of the heart,
4 from diseases of the nervous system,
3 from cancer, and
4 from various causes.

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28  
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Twelve were males and 16 females. One was under 1 year of age, and nine above 65.

The population of the district was, according to the census of 1891, 2,378, and I doubt whether any increase has taken place since that year. Taking this number, the mortality from all causes is at the average annual rate of 11·77 for every 1,000 persons living. I annex a table of the mortality for the last 10 years, and according to those figures the average mortality from 1886 to 1893 is 12·03. The death-rate of the past year is, therefore, a little below the average.

The number of births was 49, of which 27 were males and 22 females, giving a birth rate of 20·6.

The infantile mortality was 20·4 per 1,000 births.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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#### I.—*Not Notifiable.*

*Influenza*, which appeared about three years ago as a severe epidemic, still lingers about in a sporadic form, awaiting only favourable conditions to revive in all its former intensity. What those conditions are, unfortunately, we are all still unable to say, they are most likely atmospheric, and they were evidently present at the end of February, when influenza became again prevalent. One case proved fatal complicated with pneumonia.

*Measles and Whooping Cough* were almost absent, and no death occurred.

*Diarrhœa*.—This disease, generally so common in a hot and dry season, such as we experienced in the summer and autumn, caused no death, and the few cases which came under notice were of a very mild type.

## II.—Notifiable.

Only seven cases were notified during the year, against 15 in 1894, and 27 in 1893.

There was no case of *Small-pox*, *Membranous Croup*, or *Puerperal Fever*.

*Scarlatina*.—Three cases were notified ; one in April, one in July, and one in October. They were of a mild character, and the necessary precautions of isolation and disinfection were taken in each case.

*Diphtheria*.—The only case occurred in July, and proved fatal. It was probably contracted out of the district.

*Erysipelas*.—One case was reported.

*Enteric Fever*.—No case of this disease occurred in the district during the last three years. In December two cases were notified. One case, of a very mild type, was notified in Hampton Court. It was a child, seven years old, living in a refreshment place, and it made, after a short illness, a rapid recovery. The other case was that of a servant in Upper Teddington Road, who died in January 1896. The drains of the house were in fairly good condition. The only sanitary defect was found in the coachhouse, where a gully was placed which received the soak-water from the scullery. No well water was used. The milk was supplied by a cow-keeper who had only four cows, none of which showed any sign of disease. The water which was used for cleansing the dairy utensils was taken from a well on the premises, and this well water was found, on analysis, slightly contaminated with organic matter. As it is thoroughly objectionable to use well water for dairy purposes in this district, which had only few years ago a cesspool drainage, the owner was served with a notice to close the well and to use the water supplied by the Water Company.

*Rabies*.—I may here mention that in the beginning of October a child was bitten in the hand by a dog which was supposed to be suffering from rabies. The dog was killed, and the body sent for examination to the Brown's Institute in London. It was there ascertained that the dog was suffering from rabies. As soon as the nature of the dog's illness was placed beyond a doubt, the child was sent to the Pasteur Institute, in Paris, where it underwent a course of treatment. The result was very satisfactory, and as the child returned home well, and has remained so up to the present time, it is not probable that any bad consequences of the bite will arise.

## INSPECTION AND NUISANCES.

This district is the smallest in the administrative County of Middlesex, and has a very small cottage population, which, from want of suitable building land, cannot much increase. The systematic inspection of the district was made in November and December. The usual sanitary defects which constantly recur were found, namely, defective drains, defective water apparatus in closets, dilapidated dust bins, and want of dust bins, accumulation of manure, &c. These defects were dealt with either by verbal advice or by statutory notices. Complaints were received during the hot weather about bad smells arising from pig-styes. The nuisance was abated after notices were served.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports that—

- 194 houses were inspected and re-inspected.
- 63 notices served.
- 33 flushing cisterns provided to closets.
- 32 supplied with water, and supply rendered efficient.
- 9 drains unstopped, repaired and trapped.
- 17 drains new laid.
- 4 cesspools abolished, and houses connected with sewers.
- 63 new dust bins provided.

*Dust and House Refuse*.—The work was very satisfactorily performed. Only four complaints were received that the dust bin was not emptied.



*Slaughterhouses.*—The two slaughterhouses were periodically inspected, and were found in a clean condition.

*Bakehouses.*—All were periodically inspected ; in some lime-washing was required, and in one the plaster of the roof was defective.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Great inconvenience was caused by the prolonged frost of the early months of 1895, when for upwards of nine weeks the entire parish was without water from the Company's mains, and great praise is due to the Council for having taken prompt measures to alleviate the sufferings connected with the stoppage. Our own wells at the Ejectors, in Park Gate and in Hampton Court, were at this time of inestimable value, and from them the water was distributed in our water-carts all over the parish. Further, a supply was offered for the purpose of flushing closets, and carbolic was freely distributed wherever required. Great supervision was exercised over the sanitary arrangements of the public schools. The water-carts called there daily and kept the drains thoroughly flushed. Help was also given by generous private inhabitants who had wells in working order on their premises. The water from the public wells was analysed before it was distributed, and the water from many private wells also underwent analysis.

The cause of the pitiable condition in which the district was placed was entirely due to the shallow depth of the mains, and I am glad to see that the Water Company has during the summer and autumn had many of the pipes lowered to a depth of 2 feet 8 inches ; in one or two roads, however, no alteration was made, and these remain only 12 or 15 inches under the ground.

Much work has yet to be done before we are prepared against the inconveniences of a severe frost. The supply pipes leading from the mains to the houses have, with few exceptions, not been lowered, and the Water Company have thrown the responsibility of this work on the inhabitants at large. In equity this should not be the case, but we are at present powerless in the matter.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Of the four Shone ejectors which have been placed at four points of the sewerage system only one is in duplicate, and it is undoubtedly necessary that the remainder should be duplicated, as, in case of a stoppage at any ejector, that section of drainage would be cut off from the system pending the repair, and the result might be very injurious to health.

There are four tanks which flush automatically the respective sewers ; at the remaining ends flushing is regularly carried on by means of water, taken from our own wells and tanks, mixed with a solution of sulphate of iron.

For the sake of economy, and for a more effectual way of flushing, a water-cart with flush-valve is desirable.

Two main ventilating shafts have also been erected, and others should be added, as circumstances permit, for the better ventilating of the sewers.

It is very desirable that a 3-gallon supply of water to each closet should be obtained, in place of the present 2 gallons, which is quite inadequate to flush the drains of the houses through the intercepting traps into the sewers. Whilst this defect lasts, the inhabitants are advised to flush out periodically all sections of their drains by means of buckets of water, applied simultaneously to each closet, sink, &c.

It is very important that the inhabitants should see that their drains are clear, but in many cases this cannot be done as no manholes exist on the house-side of the intercepting traps. Such manholes should be compulsory.

During the year all drains to new houses, and those repaired, have been tested by means of the water-test.

#### MORTUARY.

The Council have not come to any decision regarding the erection of a mortuary. An attempt was made in February and March to secure a site under one of the arches of Kingston Bridge, but the negotiations led to no

result. During the past year, happily no case occurred for which a mortuary was required. The shed which is at present used for the purpose of a mortuary is not in a fit state, the roofing being very defective; and if the selection of a suitable site is postponed indefinitely, the existing shed should be put in a proper state of repair.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

With regard to the Isolation Hospital, I beg to refer to my previous reports. It is only by the combined action of this and the neighbouring districts that a suitable site can be found, and up to the present time no such action has been taken.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TH. GUNTHER, M.D.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

HAMPTON WICK

January 1896.

#### HAMPTON WICK DISTRICT.

*Mortality of the last ten years, 1886-95.*

Year .. ..	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Number of deaths ..	27	25	24	35	27	25	29	36	27	28
Annual death-rate ..	12.49	11.56	11.10	16.18	12.27	10.51	12.19	13.03	9.25	11.77

Average annual death-rate for the last 10 years, 12.03.

The calculation of the annual death-rate is made on the census, and on the estimated population in various years; cases which have no connection with the district being omitted.

TH. GUNTHER, M.D.